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All persons are by nature free and independent, and have certain natural and unalienable rights, among which are those of enjoying and defending life and liberty, of acquiring, possessing, and protecting property, and of pursuing and obtaining safety and happiness. -- Article 1, Section 1, New Jersey State Constitution

Gun Control folly in Canada, across the pond…

By John Lott Jr.

If you have a problem, it's often easy to blame someone else. And with Canada's murder rate rising 12 percent last year and a rash of murders by gangs in Toronto and other cities, it's understandable that Canadian politicians want a scapegoat. And that was the strategy Canada's premiers took when they met with the new United States ambassador to Canada, David Wilkins, by blaming their crime problems on guns smuggled in from the U.S.

Of course, there is a minor problem with blaming the U.S. Despite billions of dollars spent on the Canada's gun-registration program and the program's inability to solve crime, the government does not know how many crime-guns were seized in Canada, let alone where those guns came from. The Royal Canadian Mounted Police reported in late July that they "cannot know if [the guns] were traceable or where they might have been traced." Thus, even if smuggled guns were an important problem, the Canadian government doesn't know if it is worse now than in the past.

Paul Culver, a senior Toronto Crown Attorney, claims that guns from the U.S. are a "small part" of the problem.

There is another more serious difficulty: You don't have to live next to the U.S. to see how hard it is to stop criminals from getting guns. The easy part is getting law-abiding citizens to disarm; the hard part is getting the guns from criminals. Drug gangs that are firing guns in places like Toronto seem to have little trouble getting the drugs that they sell and it should not be surprising that they can get the weapons they need as well.

The experiences in the U.K. and Australia, two island nations whose borders are much easier to monitor, should also give Canadian gun controllers some pause. The British government banned handguns in 1997 but recently reported that gun crime in England and Wales nearly doubled in the four years from 1998-99 to 2002-03.

Crime was supposed to fall after handguns were banned. Yet, since 1996 the serious-violent-crime rate has soared by 69 percent; robbery is up 45 percent, and murders up 54 percent. Before the law, armed robberies had fallen 50 percent from 1993 to 1997, but as soon as handguns were banned the robbery rate shot back up, almost to its 1993 level.

The 2000 International Crime Victimization Survey, the last survey completed, shows the violent-crime rate in England and Wales was twice the rate of that in the U.S. When the new survey for 2004 comes out, that gap will undoubtedly have widened even further as crimes reported to British police have since soared by 35 percent, while those in the U.S. have declined 6 percent.

Australia has also seen its violent-crime rates soar immediately after its 1996 Port Arthur gun-control measures. Violent crime rates averaged 32-percent higher in the six years after the law was passed (from 1997 to 2002) than they did in 1995. The same comparisons for armed-robbery rates showed increases of 74 percent.

During the 1990s, just as Britain and Australia were more severely regulating guns, the U.S. was greatly liberalizing individuals' abilities to carry firearms. Thirty seven of the fifty states now have so-called right-to-carry laws that let law-abiding adults carry concealed handguns after passing a criminal background check and paying a fee. Only half the states require some training, usually around three to five hours. Yet crime has fallen even faster in these states than the national average. ***Overall, the states in the U.S. that have experienced the fastest growth rates in gun ownership during the 1990s have experienced the biggest drops in murders and other violent crimes.***

Many things affect crime: The rise of drug-gang violence in Canada and Britain is an important part of the story, just as it has long been important in explaining the U.S.'s rates. (Few Canadians appreciate that 70 percent of American murders take place in just 3.5 percent of our counties, and that a large percentage of those are drug-gang related.) Just as these gangs can smuggle drugs into the country, they can smuggle in weapons to defend their turf.

With Canada's reported violent-crime rate of 963 per 100,000 in 2003, a rate about twice the U.S.'s (which is 475), Canada's politicians are understandably nervous.

While it is always easier to blame another for your problems, the solution to crime is often homegrown.

— John Lott, a resident scholar at the American Enterprise Institute, is the author of *More Guns, Less Crime* (University of Chicago Press, 2000) and *The Bias Against Guns* (Regnery 2003).

Joseph Farah: Why I am a Minuteman

I have been admiring, endorsing, extolling and promoting the Minuteman Project (http://www.minutemanhq.com) since I first learned of its existence.

But this past weekend, I took the next logical step – I joined the Minuteman Civil Defense Corps.

That's right, I volunteered to join this courageous band of American patriots as a volunteer border watcher this fall.

A few years ago, I wrote a book called "Taking America Back" in which I urged my fellow countrymen to start doing their part as individuals to restore morality, freedom and the rule of law in this nation.

The Minutemen are a perfect example.

It couldn't be more clear that the U.S. government is refusing to enforce the duly enacted immigration laws. We can scream about it. We can cry about it. We can petition. We can write letters to our congressmen. We can write letters to the editor. But, ultimately I don't think any of these actions are going to force the federal government to take responsibility for border control.

I believe the president, the Congress and many of our elite cultural institutions are hell-bent on following some kind of disastrous master plan that involves forgoing serious border security in favor of multinational agreements that only exacerbate our crisis with illegal migrants invading America. http://www.wnd.com/news/article.asp?ARTICLE_ID=45352

Border security is the No. 1 crisis facing America right now:

It's a matter of national security, because terrorists are infiltrating this country with plans to kill millions of Americans. http://www.wnd.com/news/article.asp?ARTICLE_ID=45203

I believe the Minutemen represent our last line of defense in preserving freedom and self-government in America.

The Minutemen will be taking action again this fall – with plans to shut down both the Mexican and Canadian borders to illegal alien traffic for at least a limited period of time with a volunteer, citizen army to support the undermanned, outgunned, under-funded Border Patrol professionals.

I understand that not everyone is in a position to go to the border with the Minuteman heroes. But some of you can.

It's time to report for duty.

If you can't take time off from work to join us support this action with money, with prayers, with political support

I urge you to do so right now. https://secure.responseenterprises.com/minutemanhq/?a=116

-- WorldNetDaily, Aug. 3, 2005

The truth about Militias

By William Cooper, and Betty Schier, with quotes from Jon Roland

The 1971 edition of The *Compact Edition of the Oxford English Dictionary* defines:

Militia - 1. A system of military discipline, organization, and tactics; manner of conducting warfare; the arts of war. 2. The control and administration of the military and naval forces of a country. 3. A military force esp. the body of soldiers in the service of a sovereign or a state; in later use employed in more restricted sense to denote a "citizen army" as distinguished from a body of mercenaries or professional soldiers. 4.b. U.S. "The whole body of men declared by law amendable to military service, without enlistment, whether armed and drilled or not."

Militiaman - A member of a military force.

Black's Law Dictionary further defines these terms. Bear in mind that words have meaning. Under the law the words may not mean what you think.

Also, you will note in the following definition that the Militia is not subordinate to the state or any other body. The body of citizens constitutes the body of authority to which the Militia answers.

Militia - The body of citizens in a state, enrolled for discipline as a military force, but not engaged in actual service except in emergencies, as distinguished from regular troops, or a standing army. *State v. Dawson*, 272 N.C. 535, 159 S.E.2d 1, 9

Militiamen - Comprehends every temporary citizen-soldier who in time of war or emergency enters active military service of the country. *Critchlow v. Monson*, 102 Utah 378 131 P.2d 794, 798

The first U.S. document in law is, "The unanimous Declaration of the thirteen United States of America". It sets out the reasons and justifications for our separation from England and the Revolutionary War that followed. The document places the decision and the power in the hands of the people, and was clearly meant to be enforced by the Militia, a citizen's army.

The Declaration of Independence clearly states: "That whenever any form of Government becomes destructive of these ends, it is the Right of the People to alter or to abolish it, and to institute new Government, laying its foundation on such principles, and organizing its powers in such from, as to them shall seem most likely to effect their Safety and Happiness... But when a long train of abuses and usurpations, pursuing invariably the same Object, evinces a design to reduce them under absolute Despotism, it is their right, it is their duty, to throw off such Government, and to provide new Guards for their future Security."

Our Founding Fathers frequently discussed the meaning and purpose of the Militia. I suggest you read the *Federalist Papers*, No. 24 through 34. You will find a complete argument for the Militia as a "citizen's army" consisting of "the whole of the people," designed to allay the public fears of a despotic central government.

"If the representatives of the people betray their constituents, there is then no resource left but in the exertion of that original right of self-defense which is paramount to all positive forms of government." -- *Federalist Papers*, No. 28, Section 8

"It may safely be received as an axiom in our political system that the state governments will, in all possible contingencies, afford complete security against the invasions of public liberty by the national authority." -- *Federalist Papers*, No. 8, Section 8

The Constitution for the united States of America is the Supreme Law of the land.

It recognizes the Militia as an already existing force outside the control of the federal government, and authorizes the Congress to call forth the Militia for three very specific occurrences: to execute the Laws of the Union, suppress Insurrections and repel Invasions (Article 1, Section 8). The Militia cannot be called up to perform any acts outside of the three specifically stated in the Constitution, least of all anything unconstitutional, illegal, or unlawful. Indeed, the commanders must refuse any unconstitutional, illegal, or unlawful order.

The Constitution in Article 1, Section 8 also authorizes Congress "To provide for organizing, arming, and disciplining, the Militia, and for governing such Part of them as may be employed in the Service of the United States, reserving to the States respectively, the Appointment of Officers, and the Authority of training the Militia according to the discipline prescribed by Congress."

Still fearful of an oppressive central government and a standing

In the beginning of change the patriot is a scarce man, brave, hated and scorned. When his cause succeeds, however, the timid join him, for then it costs nothing to be a patriot. – Mark Twain

army, the states agreed to adopt the Constitution only after penning further ten further safeguards to protect the individual and the several states. These safeguards, or amendments, came to be known as the Bill of Rights

The Preamble, Article II, and Article X are of particular note:

Preamble - "The conventions of a number of the States having at the time of their adopting the Constitution, expressed a desire, in order to prevent misconstruction or abuse of its powers, that further declaratory and restrictive clauses should be added; and as extending the ground of public confidence in the Government, will best insure the beneficent ends of its institution."

Article II - "A well regulated Militia, being necessary to the security of a free State, the right of the people to keep and bear Arms, shall not be infringed."

Article X - "The powers not delegated to the United States by the Constitution, nor prohibited by it to the States, are reserved to the States respectively, or to the people."

Because freedom, yours and mine, is ultimately dependent upon the rights guaranteed by these words, each with a specific meaning, it is imperative that we understand the meaning. A Militia is an armed citizenry which, according to the *American Heritage Dictionary*, "...is not a part of the regular armed forces, but is on call for service in an emergency." The Federalist Papers show that the, "Militia," referred to in the Second Amendment, is, "the armed citizenry." The militia protects the rights of the "people," not the power of any government entity.

"Black Man with a Gun"

By Kenn Blanchard

What's the deal with the "Black Man" stuff?

When you are allergic to something, doctors give you small doses of the substance until you no longer react to it. That is what I am doing with Black Man With A Gun. If you had any sensitivity to the phrase, in the beginning, the more you hear it and get to know me, the less of a big deal it is. It is a big deal if you felt yourself flinch from the title when I first appeared on your screen. It's not your fault. It's how we have been conditioned.

For more than two centuries, racism and fear have conditioned most of American society to be allergic to what keeps us free. I lead a quiet revolution. I seek to change the hearts and minds of all brave enough to contact me. For those on the fence, I am the cure. My domain is the growing number of confused and misinformed folks that sit in the middle of the road. I leave the hard ball to the pros. I spend my energy and resources responding to emails from high school and college students, single parents and people who don't know that they have been infected with the "gun control virus".

I speak in churches and community groups where a "hardliner" has had a hard time going. It is impossible to monitor what affect I have for my efforts but I am sure I make it easier for the continuance of the right to keep and bear arms one person at a time.

Everything from the photo used on my book's cover, to its controversial title was designed to help the struggle in the right to keep and bear arms. To do that, I had to get the public's attention by disturbing it, then causing it to think about the issue and finally to act. Somewhere in the process, we either gain an ally or change the mental picture of how that person thinks a pro-gun person looks like. A mind introduced to new stimuli, rarely can return to its old ways. If I get lucky, they'll talk, e-mail or write me.

Then I can inoculate them or make it easier for the next pro-gun American they meet.

If you pass a black pick up truck with the text "Black Man With A Gun.Net" or "Got Guns?" emblazoned on the tailgate in large reflective letters; smile or wave as you pass. It's just me, making folks think about the gun issue while they drive around Washington, DC!

Get your copy of *Black Man with A Gun* for $16.95 by calling 301-681-2162. Get it for $14.99 when you order online. What no credit card? Send your check or money order for $16.96 to BIG, Inc., PO Box 12424, Arlington, VA 22209

-- www.tenthcavalrygunclub.org

War and Liberty

By Thomas J. DiLorenzo

Jay Winik is dead wrong with his assertion that wartime restrictions on civil liberties do not ultimately curtail fundamental freedoms in times of peace.

President Lincoln unconstitutionally suspended the writ of habeas corpus and ordered the military to arrest thousands of Northern civilians, including dozens of newspaper publishers, state legislators, mayors and even members of Congress for opposing his domestic and war policies. No warrants were issued and no charges were ever brought. These people were summarily thrown into military prisons where some of them languished for years.

This and other acts of repression in the North during the Lincoln administration was an important step along the road to centralized governmental power in America, which is always the mortal enemy of individual liberty.

As Dean Sprague explained in *Freedom Under Lincoln*, these acts laid the groundwork for such coercive measures as military conscription and income taxation. In 1861 the federal government was inconsequential to most Americans, which is how the founding fathers wanted it. But Lincoln's assault on civil liberties changed that forever.

For decades most historians have largely ignored these embarrassing facts about the Lincoln administration, but, interestingly, left/liberal intellectuals have recently begun celebrating them precisely because they helped establish the centralized state that we now labor under. In *Our Secret Constitution*, Columbia University law professor George P. Fletcher applauds Lincoln's assault on civil liberties in the North because it supposedly helped to "reinvent the United States" government from one whose main objective was the protection of individual liberty to "egalitarianism." Garry Wills and James McPherson have made similar arguments.

In his 1962 book *Patriotic Gore*, the literary critic Edmund Wilson credited Lincoln, more than anyone else, with creating the centralized American state and warned that centralized governmental power is the enemy of individual liberty. Lincoln scholar Mark Neely Jr. excoriates Wilson for this view in *The Fate of Liberty* by claiming that it is based on Wilson's "extremist views of individual freedom." But Wilson's views on freedom were the same ones that were held by Jefferson, Madison and other founders. They are "extreme" only to the advocates of unlimited governmental power.

-- Thomas J. DiLorenzo is Professor of Economics at Loyola College, Baltimore

The UN's and FDA's "Food Code"

By Marilyn Barnewell

The United Nations gave the title Codex Alimentarius to a group in

the World Health Organization that plans to greatly restrict Americans' access to vitamins, herbs, minerals, homeopathic remedies, amino acids, and nutritional supplements.

Our delegation to the WHO's Codex Conference is part of the problem. In Bonn, in 1996, Dr. Yetley of the Food and Drug Administration seconded a motion to move discussions about herbs from Codex to a secret panel at the WHO. WHO views herbs as drugs (meaning prescriptions are required to get them).

Many Europeans are already suffering from Codex. Until 1996 Germans could freely purchase 500 mg of vitamin C and 400 I.U. capsules of vitamin E. Today, the highest dosage of vitamins C and E available without a prescription is 200 mg. and 45 I.U. respectively.

Norwegians can purchase a mere 2.4 mg of vitamin B1, 2.8 mg of B2, 4.2 mg of B6, and 32 mg of niacin without a prescription.

In Canada, any herb making health improvement claims is classified as a drug. The European Economic Community (EEC) has said if an herb is medicinal, it is medicine and should be sold as a drug.

The proposals for the food code came a panel sponsored by three giant German drug companies: Hoechst, Bayer and BASF which resulted from the break up of the notorious I.G. Farben company after World War II.

BASF and LaRoche Holding AG (of Switzerland) recently pleaded guilty to the largest antitrust conspiracy as yet uncovered to fix vitamin prices. Each paid hefty fines.

Codex may be coming to America too. Your local vitamin store could be a thing of the past.

One internal medicine specialist who treated patients for 34 years before deciding alternative medicines could be just as effective as pharmaceuticals says Codex will prevent people from taking supplements to stay healthy. Thus, he says, more people will get sick and more pharmaceuticals will be prescribed. What a way for pharmaceutical companies to eliminate their competition.

Our Congressmen and Senators tell us that Codex is a non-issue. After all, we have federal statutes like the Proxmire Vitamin Act and the dietary Supplement Health and Education Act of 1994. They protect us from what the WHO refers to as "the harmonization" of international standards, that is, standardizing vitamin dosages throughout the world..

If those laws granted sufficient protection, it is doubtful Congressman Ron Paul (R-TX) would have introduced the American Sovereignty Restoration Act, HR1146. Other federal statutes that are supposed to protect us include 19 U.S.C. 3512(a) (1) and (a) (2). They are supposed to prevent the "harmonizing" of American vitamin and herb laws with Codex demands. I don't think they will.

Have multinational corporations like pharmaceuticals become more powerful than the world's governments? One could make a very good argument that the World Trade Organization, using the UN and the WHO, is trying to destroy the economies of North America.

It will be interesting to see if Americans do as they usually do and sit on their hands, expecting their legislators to do the right thing. Their record of doing that is so poor, it makes one wonder why the expectation exists. I like Ronald Reagan's philosophy of "Trust, but verify," when it comes to government. We should ask specific questions and demand specific answers.

Codex appears to be about pharmaceuticals taking over the supplement industry, not trying to eliminate them.

Will we forced to get prescriptions in order to purchase supplements? I can say with assurance that I know more about alternative medicines than 99 percent of the physicians I have seen. Now they are going become overnight experts and say "yes" or "no" to my requests for a prescription for vitamins?

As you ponder this, remember that Codex decisions override those of individual countries. When complaints are filed, they are settled by world courts with little concern about whether Americans get enough Vitamin C every day. Severe trade restrictions can be used by the WTO to twist arms of nations into compliance.

At the current time, our economy could not withstand such restrictions.

-- BiznetDaily commentary, May 4, 2005

Recall of Handgun Holsters

Michaels of Oregon is recalling about 8,000 Kydex Belt Holsters for Glock model handguns.

The holster's retention strap can move out of position and could cause a handgun to unexpectedly discharge while being reholstered, posing a serious injury risk.

The firm has received three reports of unexpected discharges. In one incident, a law enforcement officer was shot in the leg while reholstering his firearm.

The recall includes Kydex Belt and Tactical Holsters with thumb break fits for Glock model handguns. The holsters are rigid and are made of black Kydex and come with tension screws for a proper fit.

The words, "Uncle Mike's by Michaels of Oregon" are printed on the back of the holster. The recall involves sizes 12, 21, and 25, which is printed on the inside of the holster between the two screws securing the holster to the belt slide.

The holsters were sold through Uncle Mike's and Uncle Mike's Law Enforcement catalogs and at sporting goods stores and gun supply stores nationwide from January 2002 through October 2002 for between $25 and $50.

Consumers who have purchased a Kydex Holster with a thumb break for a Glock Handgun should stop using it immediately and contact Michaels of Oregon for a replacement retention strap free of charge.

Call Michaels of Oregon at (800) 471-4999 between 7:30 a.m. and 4:30 p.m. PT Monday through Friday, or visit their Web site at www.michaeloforegon.com

To view this release on CPSC's web site, including a picture of the recalled product, please go to: http://www.cpsc.gov/cpscpub/prerel/prhtml05/05175.html

Radioactive Wounds of War

By Dave Lindorff

Gerard Matthew thought he was lucky. He returned from his Iraq tour a year and a half ago alive and in one piece. But after the New York State National Guardsman got home, he learned that a bunkmate, Sgt. Ray Ramos, and a group of N.Y. Guard members from another unit had accepted an offer by the New York *Daily News* and reporter Juan Gonzalez to be tested for depleted uranium (DU) contamination, and had tested positive.

Matthew, 31, decided that since he'd spent much of his time in Iraq lugging around DU-damaged equipment, he'd better get tested too. It turned out he was the most contaminated of them all.

Matthew immediately urged his wife to get an ultrasound check of their unborn baby. They discovered the fetus had a condition common to those with radioactive exposure: atypical syndactyly. The right hand had only two digits.

So far Victoria Claudette, now 13 months old, shows no other genetic disorders and is healthy, but Matthew feels guilty for causing her deformity and angry at a government that never warned him about DU's dangers.

US forces first used DU in the 1991 Gulf War, when some 300 tons of the waste product of nuclear power plants and weapons facilities were used in tank shells and shells fired by A-10 jets. A lesser amount was employed by US and NATO forces during the Balkans conflict. But in the current wars in Afghanistan and, especially, Iraq, DU has become the weapon of choice, with more than 1,000 tons used in Afghanistan and more than 3,000 tons used in Iraq. And while DU was fired mostly in the desert during the Gulf War, in the current war in Iraq, most of DU munitions are exploding in populated urban areas.

The Pentagon is also using DU in bunker-busting bombs, which can spew out more than half a ton of DU in one explosion, in anti-personnel bomblets, and even in M-16 rifle and pistol shells. The military loves DU for its unique penetration capability - it cuts through steel or concrete like they're butter.

The problem is that when DU hits its target, it burns at a high temperature, throwing off clouds of microscopic particles that poison a wide area and remain radioactive for billions of years. If inhaled, these particles can lodge in lungs, other organs or bones, irradiating tissue and causing cancers.

Worse yet, uranium is also a highly toxic heavy metal. Indeed, while there is some debate over the risk posed by the element's radioactive emissions, there is no debate regarding its chemical toxicity. According to Mt. Sinai pathologist Thomas Fasey, who participated in a recent New York National Guard unit testing, the element has an affinity for bonding with DNA, where even trace amounts can cause cancers and fetal abnormalities.

Dr. Doug Rokke, a health physicist at the University of Illinois who headed up a Pentagon study of depleted uranium weapons in the mid '90s after concerns were raised during the Gulf War, concluded there was no safe way to use the weapons. Rokke says the Pentagon responded by denouncing him, after earlier commending his work.

No one knows how many US soldiers [or Iraqis] have been contaminated by DU residue. Despite regulations authorizing tests for any military personnel who suspects exposure, the US military is avoiding doing those tests.

"When we asked to be tested at Ft. Dix, they wrongly told us we didn't have to worry unless we had DU fragments in our body," says Matthew. His buddy, Sgt. Ramos, who exhibits symptoms resembling radiation sickness and heavy metal poisoning, adds that at Walter Reed Medical Center he was grilled for hours about why he wanted to be tested and was then branded a troublemaker by his own unit. Matthew says Walter Reed "lost" his sample.

"It doesn't seem right that we are poisoning the places we are supposed to be liberating," Ramos says.

The Pentagon continues to insist, on the basis of no field evidence, that DU is safe. To date, only some 270 returned troops have been tested for DU contamination by the military and Veterans Affairs. But even those tests, mostly urine samples, are useless 30 days after exposure, because by that time most of the DU has left the body or migrated into bones or organs.

Gonzalez and the *Daily News* paid for costlier tests for nine Guardsmen - tests that could pinpoint uranium inside the body and identify the special isotope signature of man-made DU. Four of the nine tested positive for DU; all had symptoms of uranium poisoning.

Even harder evidence may soon arrive. Connecticut State Representative Pat Dillon (D-New Haven), a Yale-trained epidemiologist, has crafted legislation that Connecticut and Louisiana have unanimously passed, authorizing returned National Guard troops to request and receive DU contamination tests at the Pentagon's expense. This approach bypasses the Pentagon's feet-dragging because National Guard troops fall under state, rather than federal, jurisdiction.

Dillon says, "These are our kids and someone needs to protect them." She says her bill takes effect this October. Bob Smith, a veteran in Louisiana who got hold of Dillon's bill and spearheaded a successful effort to pass similar legislation in Louisiana, claims that 14 to 20 other states are considering similar measures.

Reservists and active duty troops and veterans may also demand similar access to rigorous tests, which can cost upwards of $1000 per person.

One way or another, the Pentagon will pay a price. "DU is a war crime. It's that simple," Rokke says. "Once you've scattered all this stuff around, and then refuse to clean it up, you've committed a war crime." --

www.truthout.org/docs_2005/082605A.shtml

Hurricane Katrina and the Welfare State

By Robert Tracinski

The disaster we are witnessing in New Orleans did not happen over the past four days. It happened over the past four decades. Hurricane Katrina merely exposed it to public view.

The man-made disaster is the welfare state.

When confronted with a disaster, people usually rise to the occasion. They work together to rescue people in danger, and they spontaneously organize to keep order and solve problems. This is especially true in America. We are an enterprising people, used to relying on our own initiative rather than waiting around for the government to take care of us. I have seen this a hundred times, in small examples (a small town whose main traffic light had gone out, causing ordinary citizens to get out of their cars and serve as impromptu traffic cops, directing cars through the intersection) and large ones (the spontaneous response of New Yorkers to September 11).

So what explains the chaos in New Orleans, where, according to the Washington *Times* “Storm victims are raped and beaten; fights erupt with flying fists, knives and guns; fires are breaking out; corpses litter the streets; and police and rescue helicopters are repeatedly fired on….Gov. Kathleen Babineaux Blanco said 300 Iraq-hardened Arkansas National Guard members ‘are under my orders to restore order in the streets. They have M-16s, and they are locked and loaded. These troops know how to shoot and kill and they are more than willing to do so if necessary and I expect they will.’”

Why are people responding to natural destruction by causing further destruction? Why are they attacking the people who are trying to help them?

My wife, Sherri, figured it out. While watching the coverage on Fox News Channel, she told me that she was getting a familiar feeling. She studied architecture at the Illinois Institute of Chicago, which is located in the South Side of Chicago just blocks from the Robert Taylor Homes, one of the largest high-rise public housing projects in America. "The projects," as they were known, were infamous for uncontrollable crime and irremediable squalor. (They have since, mercifully, been demolished.)

What Sherri was getting was a whiff of the sense of life of "the projects." Then the "crawl"--the information flashed at the bottom of the screen on most news channels--gave some vital statistics to confirm this sense: 75% of the residents of New Orleans had already evacuated before the hurricane, and of the 300,000 or so who remained, a large number were from the city's public housing projects. Furthermore early reports from CNN and Fox indicated that the city had no plan for evacuating all of the prisoners in the city's jails--so they just let many of them loose.

There were many decent, innocent homeowners in New Orleans when the deluge hit--but they were trapped alongside large numbers of people from two groups: criminals and wards of the welfare state, people selected, over decades, for their lack of initiative and self-induced helplessness. The welfare wards were a mass of sheep--on which the incompetent administration of New Orleans unleashed a pack of wolves.

All of this is related to the incompetence of the city government, which failed to plan for a total evacuation of the city, despite the knowledge that this might be necessary. But in a city corrupted by the welfare state, the job of city officials is to ensure the flow of handouts to welfare recipients and patronage to political supporters--not to ensure a lawful, orderly evacuation in case of emergency

No one has really reported this story, as far as I can tell. In fact, some are already actively distorting it. The worst example is an execrable piece from the *Toronto Globe and Mail*, by a supercilious Canadian who blames the chaos on American "individualism." But the truth is precisely the opposite: the chaos was caused by a system that was the exact opposite of individualism.

The welfare state--and the brutish, uncivilized mentality it sustains and encourages--is the man-made disaster that explains the moral ugliness that has swamped New Orleans.

-- The Intellectual Activist, Sept. 2, 2005

Cops Seizes Guns in New Orleans

The Second Amendment Foundation (SAF) and National Rifle Association (NRA) have joined with individual gun owners in Louisiana, filing a motion in U.S. District Court for the Eastern District of Louisiana seeking a temporary restraining order to stop authorities in and around the City of New Orleans from seizing firearms from private citizens in the aftermath of Hurricane Katrina.

Arbitrary gun seizures, without warrant or probable cause, have been reported during the past three weeks since the Crescent City was devastated by the hurricane. In cases reported to SAF, police refused to give citizens receipts for their seized firearms. Earlier, SAF insisted that police account for all seized firearms, disclose their whereabouts, and explain how they will be returned to their rightful owners. Authorities have not responded.

Gun confiscations have been highly publicized since the New York *Times* quoted New Orleans Police Superintendent P. Edwin Compass III, who said, "Only law enforcement are allowed to have weapons," and ABC News quoted Deputy Police Chief Warren Riley stating, "No one will be able to be armed. We are going to take all the weapons."

For example, a San Francisco, CA camera crew from KTVU filmed one incident in which visiting California Highway Patrol officers tackled an elderly woman identified as Patricia Connie, to seize her pistol and forcibly remove her from her home. An ABC news crew accompanying an Oklahoma National Guard unit filmed another incident in which homeowners were handcuffed and disarmed, then released but without their firearms.

-- NewsMax.com, Sept. 21, 2005

Open Letter to the Militia

I am Jimmy A. Wynn of the Militia of Georgia. We've been around since 1987. I too am discouraged and depressed over the state of affairs in the militia.

As many of you know, we have taken Bo Gritz' S.P.I.K.E. program and put it onto DVD for a fraction of its VHS. cost. And so you know the answer to the rhetorical question, yes, Bo allows us to make these videos available to all militia personnel.

In addition we hold FTXs in Georgia (Field Training Exercises) and are building an independent study program around the S.P.I.K.E. module.

We also have one of the biggest collections of DVDs and CDs for training use anywhere in the world today and we continue to bring the militia the very best in training information.

Back in April, we started a discussion board on the internet. You can check the posts there, in the Free Speech forum. Here's the link::http://69.93.149.226/users5/militiaofgeorgia/index.cgi

Look, I welcome all of you to get involved. Come over to the board and spend a couple of hours looking over some of the recent postings. And if you need training information, help in establishing local militia units, or anything else, please stop by the board, email me at jimmywynn@mindspring.com, or feel free to call me at (770) 962 - 3113 (best time is 8 to 10 pm).

Thank you for your time and let's all get a little more active.

In HIS Service,

Jimmy

* * * *

Tyranny is the exercise of power beyond right...when the governor...makes not the law, but his will, the rule. --John Locke

Ed.: the governor or his minions the cops.

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